

REMARKS

In paragraph 1 of the Action, it was required to correct the abstract of the disclosure. Accordingly, the abstract of the disclosure has been amended.

In paragraph 3 of the Action, claim 1 was rejected under U.S.C. 35 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In paragraph 5 of the Action, claims 1 and 2 were rejected under U.S.C. 35 102(b) as being anticipated by Sabel et al. (2,216,629). In paragraph 7 of the Action, claims 3-5 were rejected under U.S.C. 35 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sabel et al. in view of Cameron et al. (1,567,706).

In view of the rejections, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the features of the invention, and claim 3 has been cancelled. Claims 4-5 have been amended to correct clerical errors. New claims 6-8 have been filed.

As recited in claim 1, a method of cutting four edges of a recording medium comprises forming an image on the recording medium; feeding the recording medium with the image along a feed path having a curved portion disposed at a corner inside a device to a first cutting position disposed at the curved portion, and cutting at the curved portion two front side edges of the recording medium in a feed direction of the recording medium while feeding the recording medium; feeding the recording medium along the curved portion further to the first cutting position and cutting two rear side edges of the recording medium in the feed direction while feeding the recording medium; feeding the recording medium along a straight portion of the feed path extending from the curved portion to a second cutting position disposed on the straight portion, and cutting one of a leading edge and a trailing edge of the recording medium in the feed direction while the recording medium is stationary; and feeding the recording medium along the straight portion further to the second cutting position and cutting the other of the leading edge and the trailing edge of the recording medium in the feed direction while the recording medium is stationary. One of the leading edge and the trailing edge is cut between cutting of the front side edges and cutting of the rear side edges.

In particular, in the invention, the image is formed on the recording medium first. The recording medium with the image is fed along the feed path having the curved portion disposed at the corner inside the device to the first cutting position disposed at the curved portion, and the front and rear side edges of the recording medium are cut at the curved portion in the feed direction of the recording medium while feeding the recording medium. Further, the leading and trailing edges of the recording medium are cut at the second cutting position in the straight portion of the feeding path.

Sabel et al. discloses a slitting and cutoff mechanism for a sheet material. According to Sabel et al., a paper sheet is inserted into a machine while resting on a table 4 shown in Figs. 1 and 13. The paper sheet supported on the table 4 is first cut endwise into strips of predetermined width by an upper knives 9 and lower knives 11. After the sheet is slit endwise by the knives 9 and 11, feeding rollers move the sheet intermittently, so that a cutoff mechanism including an upper knife 66 and a lower knife 67 cuts the paper sheet transversely in predetermined lengths.

In Sabel et al., as shown in Figs. 1 and 13, the paper sheet is fed along the table 4. The paper sheet is cut endwise into strips, that is, side edges of the paper sheet are cut, while the paper sheet is supported on the table 4.

In the invention, the recording medium with the image is fed along the feed path having the curved portion disposed at the corner inside the device to the first cutting position disposed at the curved portion, and the front side edges of the recording medium are cut at the curved portion in a feed direction of the recording medium while feeding the recording medium. In Sabel et al., the table 4 is flat and straight, and is disposed at the center of the device. Sabel et al. does not disclose the feed path having the curved portion disposed at the corner inside the device. Sabel et al. does not disclose that the image is formed on the recording medium, and the recording medium with the image is fed along the feed path. Sabel et al. does not disclose or suggest the features clearly defined in claim 1 of the invention.

Cameron et al. discloses a mechanism for converting a web of flexible material into sheets. As shown in Fig. 1 in Cameron et al., a slitting device has a rotatable member 1 and slit 2. A web 3 is fed between the rotatable member 1 and the slit 2, and is cut longitudinally into sections without distorting the sections out of parallelism. The sections are then fed upwardly to a feeding device formed of pull rollers 4 and 5. The sections pass between a rotating knife 6 and a stationary knife 7, so that the sections are cut transversely into sheets.

In the invention, the recording medium with the image is fed along the feed path having the curved portion disposed at the corner inside the device to the first cutting position disposed at the curved portion. In Cameron et al., the rotating member 1 and the slit 2 are disposed in an open space, and does not disclose the feed path having the curved portion disposed at the corner inside the device. Cameron et al. does not disclose that the image is formed on the recording medium, and the recording medium with the image is fed along the feed path. Further Cameron et al. does not disclose that one of the leading and trailing edges is cut between the front and rear side edges. Therefore, Cameron et al. does not disclose or suggest the features of the invention recited in claim 1.

New claim 7 also directs to a method of cutting four edges of a recording medium. As recited in claim 7, the method comprises forming an image on the recording medium; feeding the recording medium with the image thereon to a first cutting position along a feed path having a curved portion disposed at a corner inside a device for forming the image, said first cutting position being located at the curved portion, and cutting at the curved portion two front side edges of the recording medium in a feed direction of the recording medium while feeding the recording medium; stopping the recording medium after cutting the two front side edges, and cutting a leading edge of the recording medium located at a second cutting position in a straight portion of the feed path extending from the curved portion; feeding again the recording medium along the curved portion at the first cutting position and cutting two rear side edges of the recording medium in the feed direction while

feeding the recording medium; feeding the recording medium further along the straight portion; and stopping the recording medium where a trailing edge of the recording medium is located at the second cutting position and cutting the trailing edge thereat.

In particular, according to the invention, the four edges of the recording medium are cut in the four separate steps. First, the recording medium with the image thereon is fed to the first cutting position along the feed path having the curved portion disposed at the corner inside the device for forming the image. The two front side edges of the recording medium are cut at the curved portion in the feed direction of the recording medium while feeding the recording medium. After cutting the two front side edges, the recording medium is stopped, and the leading edge of the recording medium is cut at the second cutting position in the straight portion of the feed path extending from the curved portion. Next, the recording medium is fed again along the curved portion to the first cutting position, and the two rear side edges of the recording medium are cut while feeding the recording medium. Lastly, after the recording medium further is fed along the straight portion, the recording medium is stopped, and the trailing edge of the recording medium is cut at the second cutting position.

In *Sabel et al.*, the side edges of the paper sheet are cut first, and then the leading and trailing edges of the paper sheet are cut. *Sabel et al.* does not disclose that the four edges of the recording medium are cut in the four separate steps. Further, *Sabel et al.* does not disclose the feed path having the curved portion disposed at the corner inside the device for forming the image. *Sabel et al.* does not disclose that the image is formed on the recording medium, and the recording medium with the image is fed along the feed path. Therefore, *Sabel et al.* does not disclose or suggest the features of the invention recited in claim 7.

In *Cameron et al.*, the side edges of the paper sheet are cut first, and then the leading and trailing edges of the paper sheet are cut. *Cameron et al.* does not disclose that the four edges of the recording medium are cut in the four separate steps. Further, *Cameron et al.* does not disclose the feed path having the curved

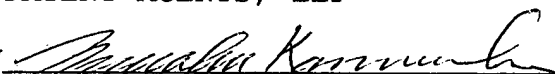
portion disposed at the corner inside the device for forming the image. Cameron et al. does not disclose that the image is formed on the recording medium, and the recording medium with the image is fed along the feed path. Therefore, Cameron et al. does not disclose or suggest the features of the invention recited in claim 7.

As explained above, the cited references do not disclose or suggest the features of the invention recited in claims 1 and 7. Even if the cited references are combined, the invention is not obvious.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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